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el Don

INSIDE:

Dons Fastpitch is off to a slow start in Orange Empire Conference play with a 2-2 record. Read the outlook for the rest of the season on Sports, Page 12



Volume 76, Issue 3

17th at Bristol Street, Santa Ana, California 92706

Monday, March 22, 1999

Her strong leadership skills and student-centered orientation make her the perfect choice

-Dr. Eddie Hernandez Jr.
District Chancellor

Rita understands the mission and the purpose of a community college

-John Didion
Vice Chancellor of Human Resources

Nowhere else but here can we take our time to nurture a student and prepare them for a career

-Rita Cepeda
Newly Elected SAC President

Madame President

Board chooses first Latina leader in SAC history

By Theresa Salinas
el Don Editor in Chief

& WHEN WILL SHE TAKE OVER?

Cepeda will assume her role by July 1, unless she is able to leave her duties early at Mission College.

WHAT IS HER VISION FOR SAC?

She is an advocate of partnerships with academia and local businesses.

HER GOALS FOR LATINOS?

She wants to close the learning gap in technology related education.



This is a good team, I feel can work well here," said a serious Rita Cepeda, newly appointed resident of Santa Ana College. Then, a smile erupted from cheek to cheek as she added, "And I'm really excited about being back in Southern California after 25 years."

With 18 years of experience in the state chancellors office and numerous contacts with state leaders, Cepeda brings with her academic and business resources necessary to lead the SAC community into the 21st century.

Currently serving as interim president of Mission College in Santa Clara, Cepeda's term at SAC begins July 1 when she takes over the position vacated two years ago by her longtime associate, District Chancellor Edward Hernandez.

Only the second female to hold the presidency, Cepeda's term signifies social progression for the college, and an attempt to move forward with business and community partnerships advocated by Hernandez.

As a proponent of partnerships between academia and business, Cepeda said she will likely establish links between SAC and area businesses, to ensure graduates' marketability in an ever emerging global economy.

Cepeda contends that preparing students for the practical working world Please see CEPEDA, Page 4



TIMELINE

1952: Born in Nicaragua.

1963: Emigrated to the United States with her family at the age of 11.

1973: Earned her bachelor's degree in communications disorders from California State University at Long Beach.

1975: Received her master's degree in science from CSU Long Beach.

1980: Joined the State Chancellor's Office for Community Colleges where she worked for 18 years.

CAMPUS

5 buildings fail seismic tests

CHANGES: Campus sites will be retrofitted to meet higher standards, after failing a state-mandated seismic survey.

By David Gekchyan
el Don Staff Writer

Look around the next time you are in the library, locker room or any other campus building. How safe would you feel during an earthquake? Would you trust the light panels hanging overhead or the pillars supporting the building?

Major earthquakes, thankfully, don't strike every day. But when they do, older construction methods are put to the test.

Following the same path as community colleges statewide, five buildings at Santa Ana College are slated for seismic retrofitting with the aim to improve their ability to withstand moderate to large earthquakes.

After the Northridge earthquake of 1994, public buildings in the state were immediately inspected for damage. The information from that was then

Please see RETROFIT, Page 3

Retrofitting The Bill

Lessons from the Northridge quake draw plans for new construction at Santa Ana College.

- Price tag for the combined projects is about \$3.9 million.

- Three structures, the men's and women's physical education and auto diesel buildings received grades of "F" by the Division of the State Architect.

- Two structures, the library and the success center, received grades of "D."

- Earliest construction could begin in January of 2001.

SOURCE: Bob Partridge RSCCD director of facilities planning



PROFILE

CHANGES IN LATITUDE

UNIQUE: Japanese student breaks stereotypes.

By Dawnielle Peck
el Don Feature Editor

People's first impressions of her may be that she's a stereotypical Japanese woman - reserved, quiet and socially shy. But as most people know, stereotypes don't always stick, and Santa Ana College student Yumi Yamagami definitely does not fit the labels others give her.

A native of Japan, Yamagami describes herself as "kind of extreme."

"I like adventure ... because I think I'm very curious about everything," she added.

It was that curiosity and a trip to Europe that led her to move to America.

After high school graduation, Yamagami journeyed to Europe alone to think about where her life was headed. Despite her petite, fragile frame, she wasn't scared to travel without a friend, but encountered difficulties because she couldn't speak English.

"During the trip I started to think, 'Oh my God, if I could speak English I could enjoy the trip and communicate with the people.' It motivated me (to learn English)," Yamagami recounted. She then decided to move to America where she would be forced to speak the language. Though she studied English in junior high and high school, she had forgotten most of what she learned.

So four years ago, Yamagami bravely said good bye to her parents, younger sister and home in Saitama, a suburb of Tokyo. She left Japan on June 26, her 24th birthday, and arrived in the United



el Don / photo

Making a shocking decision to move to America, Yumi Yamagami enrolled here as an international student to learn English. Now she's in her last semester at SAC and plans to major in speech communication.

States when, because of the vast time difference, her birthday started again.

"I had two birthdays," she said with a smile. "I didn't really have a birthday party. But coming here, I think, is the biggest gift in my life."

Now 27-years-old, Yamagami lives in Stanton where she shares an apartment with a Romanian couple, after she answered their *Pennysaver* ad. Attending her last

semester at SAC, Yamagami still surprises people.

"Beyond first impressions, she's very energetic and outgoing," said Kevin Strong, Yamagami's speech professor. "Her communication style has become more expressive and assertive. She says funny and bizarre things. I think she likes to shock people."

Yamagami recalled an experience where her strong will over-

came sensibility. "I used to have an old Maxima in bad condition and needed a new car. One day, I went to a Ford dealer where I saw a new Mustang... I just kind of fell in love with that car. I bought it that day."

If Yamagami seems reckless, she is anything but when it comes to her academic pursuits. She plans to transfer to California State University at Long Beach where she would major in speech

communication.

"She would fit well in a speech major," Strong said of Yamagami. "She's very conscientious about doing well in class."

So far, Yamagami's determination and persistence has inspired her to learn a foreign language, travel half way across the world and it will continue to help her during other challenges in her life.



VITAL STATS

- Left Japan on her 24th birthday, and because of the time difference, landed in America where her birthday began again.

- Enjoys most music, including classical, hip-hop, techno and jazz.

- Intends to transfer to Cal State Long Beach and major in speech communication.

- In Japanese culture, most names have special meanings. "Yu-" is translated as gentle, kind, clever and smart while "Mi-" means beautiful.

EDUCATION

Internet classes helping untangle the web

By Alicia Bausley
el Don Staff Writer

Ladies and Gentlemen, start your engines. Search engines that is.

For those who are not Internet savvy or wish to effectively search the Net, the Nealley Library staff at Santa Ana College provides free World Wide Web classes on Mondays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

The program was started two years ago when staff members found themselves answering mounting Internet questions.

"Librarians spent a lot of time one-on-one Internet tutoring that could have been used tending to other areas ... As a result we pooled our resources and outlined the course. And it just evolved from there,"

coordinator of Library Instruction Mary Ellen Bobp said.

Each month, Bobp and Luis Pedroza teach students computer skills with hands-on training in a classroom setting. While sign-up and previous experience are not needed, the workshops which run for two weeks are limited to 40 participants.

During the two week instruction, students learn Internet basics, definition of terms, screen patterns, how to retrieve information through search engines, home page information how to use the Uniform Resource Locator and Net etiquette.

Bobp also concentrates on evaluating the validity and accuracy of information students retrieve from certain Web sites.

"The Internet is a unique database. It's huge so we try to help students make sense

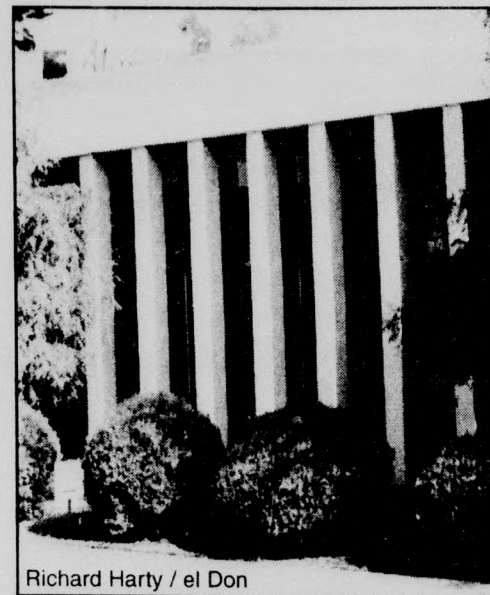
of it," Bobp said. "The information taught is really valuable. Most students come more than once, then venture on their own."

The courses sometimes come with perks because some instructors give extra credit for attending the classes. An English 101 class, the Learning Disabilities Program and students authoring argumentative writing assignments have all participated in the sessions.

Students receive handouts and a copy of *Internet Sites for Student Research* which is a list of sites for all disciplines.

Since class dates vary, students are advised to check calendars located at the service desk in the library.

- Theresa Salinas and Theresa Hudzinski contributed to this article.



Richard Harty / el Don

The Nealley Library offers Internet classes each Monday and Thursday.

Retrofit: the price tag for the project is \$3.9 million

continued from page 1

used as a guideline to check structures that were not damaged to see what needed improvement.

In 1996, the primary judge of public building safety standards in California, the Division of the State Architect, found five areas on campus that, while pose no immediate threat to students or staff, might prove deficient in the event of a large tremor.

Three structures, the men's physical education, women's physical education and auto-diesel buildings all received "F" grades by the DSA for "conditions or deficiencies observed that require further investigation." The Nealley Library fared slightly better with a "D" grade.

The lower grade calls into question a building's ability to perform well in a moderate earthquake, while a "D" limits its questionability to major ones.

"In a perfect world, there are probably some things that could

be done to all of our buildings - which is the same [situation] at any community college or school," said Robert Partridge, executive director of Facilities at the college.

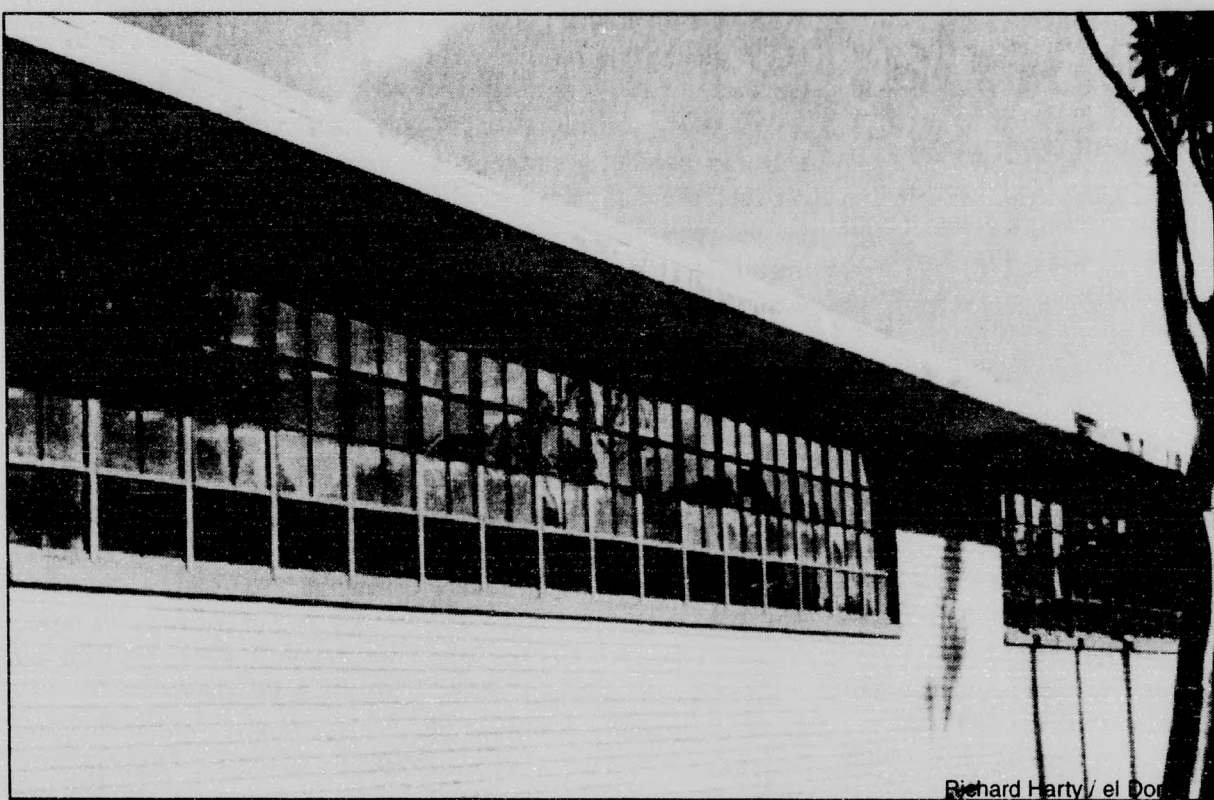
While the grades seem severe, Partridge assures that public buildings are built to codes much more stringent than most dwellings.

Community colleges are built to the DSAs strictest guidelines, surpassed in safety only by hospitals.

The combined price to retrofit all four buildings is estimated at almost \$3.9 million. While estimates at some sites have run 50 to 100 percent higher than initially expected, any additional money necessary would be set aside with the next budget said Partridge.

"Besides the cost of the fix itself, which sometimes isn't too tough, there's the cost of getting to it [the problem area]--tearing things out to redo the structure and then putting things back in can add up very quickly," said Partridge.

If approved for funding as



The men's locker room is one of five SAC sites that will undergo earthquake retrofitting.

expected, the entirety of expenses will be paid with state monies.

Needing a more detailed analysis of the situation in order to take part in the program, the school employed the services of GKK Corporation. GKK is the same architectural firm previously hired by the Los Angeles Unified School District to repair damage sustained from the Northridge quake.

GKK looked to existing drawings and the DSA report for solutions to the specific problems each building presented. Current plans for the men's and women's PE buildings include adding strengthening cross ties to walls, re-sheathing the roof with new plywood, and improving the

way the wall and roof connect to one another. Replacing windows that run the length of the buildings with masonry will also increase their stability.

The Nealley Library, partly comprised of the testing center, presents two separate challenges.

Although the library is newer than the other buildings, the structure is substantially larger, and calls for more cross-bracing in the roof and an improved connection on the inside corner of the building's L-shape.

For the testing center half, GKK feels the two story structure needs thicker outside walls as well as two long, perpendicular chords that will better hold them together.

Sketches of the auto-diesel building indicated a larger variety of changes, though smaller in scale than those in the library.

"We'll know in a June time-frame whether things get funded. Then we've got to take these very rudimentary plans and get working drawings. We'll get the architect aboard, and he'll go back and get his engineers to draw plans. It then has to go to DSA for approval," said Partridge.

Should everything proceed as planned, the earliest construction would begin in January 2001.

Until then, any falling light panels or cement columns will, hopefully, only be the ones in your imagination.

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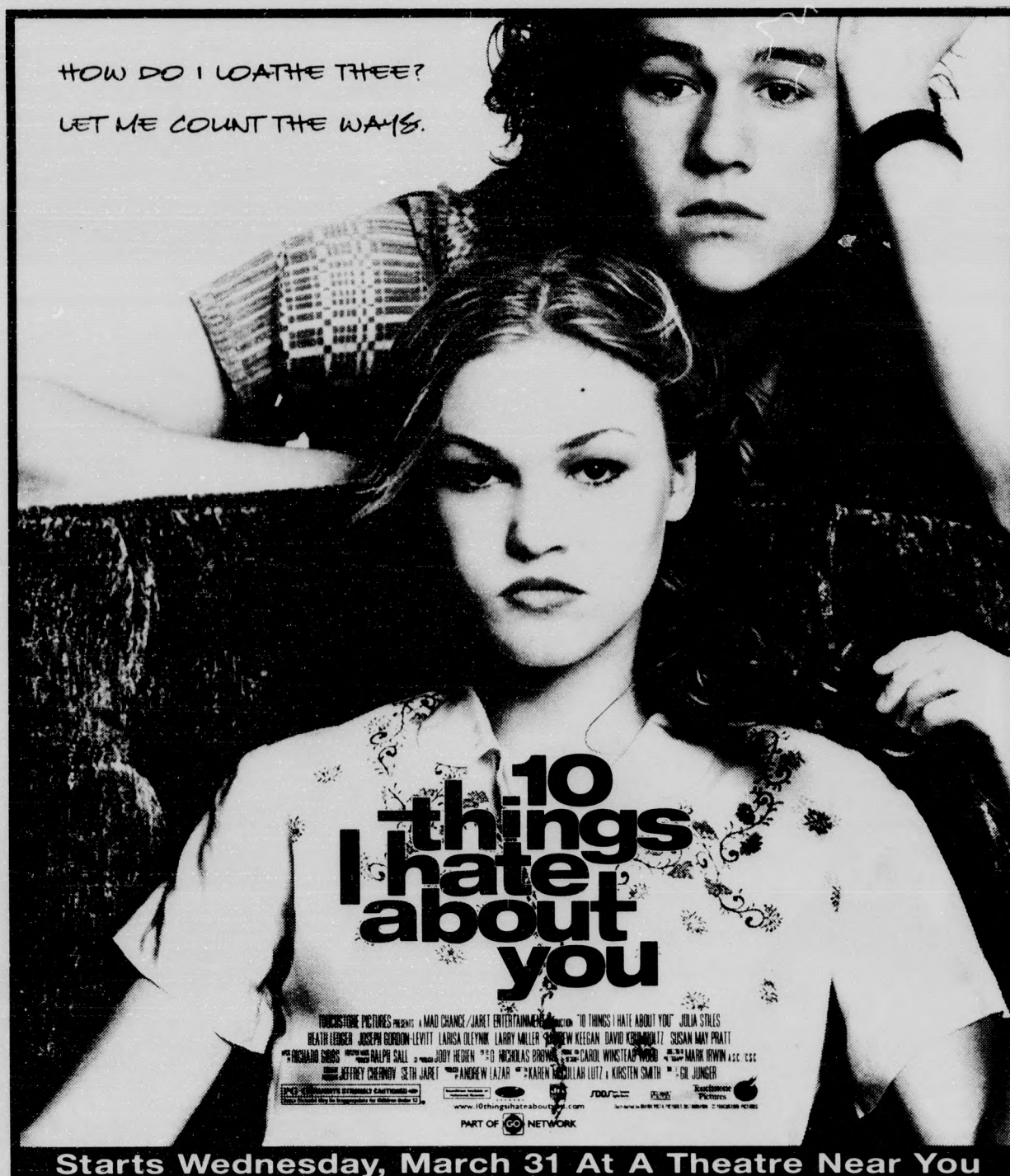
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Cepeda:

continued from page 1

outside the college campus is a valuable learning tool that should be utilized whenever and where ever possible.

"For Latinos in particular, there is a technological gap that needs to be closed," she said. "You don't prepare people for a degree, you prepare them for life. That's what partnerships are all about - hands on experience."

During her term at Mission she has used its location, in the heart of the Silicon Valley, to foster partnerships with companies like Sun Microsystems and Intel.

"Private industries, government entities, and community-based organizations need to be there for us also," she said. "After all, we are educating tomorrow's workforce."

Cepeda is also intent on keep-

ing SAC's traditional role as one of the leading transfer schools in the state.

"No other post secondary college can parallel a community college," she said. "Nowhere else but here can we take our time to nurture a student and prepare them for a career."

Although she will visit SAC before the start of her term, she will not begin creating or implementing plans for the college until investigating all facets herself.

"I think it's arrogant and bad to walk into a school and demand change. I need to listen, review and analyze before I make any concrete changes," Cepeda said.

She says she will talk to students, particularly members of campus clubs and the Associated Student Government to gather ideas.

Cepeda will also consult faculty and staff about three months to form a plan of action. I went out and talked with students -

even sitting down in the cafeteria with them."

Cepeda's scheduled start date is July 1, although there is some indication she may begin sooner. Mission College is currently conducting a presidential search, and should a candidate be appointed, Cepeda will vacate her position as interim president and assume her post at SAC.

"A lot of my family lives in Southern California, and SAC is very attractive to me. But if they don't find a president before the deadline, I can't leave them hanging," she said.

A native of Nicaragua, Cepeda emigrated to the states with her family at the age of 11.

Her family settled in Long Beach where she attended local schools, graduating from Long Beach Poly High School in 1969. Married at age 19, she moved to Northern California two years later following an employment opportunity for her husband.



"I think it's arrogant and bad to walk into a school and demand change. I need to listen, review and analyze before I make any concrete changes."

-Rita Cepeda
New SAC President -Elect

Cepeda was hired in 1980 at the California community college chancellor's office where she led educational policy for more than 1.5 million students.

In June of 1998, she took a leave of absence from her duties as vice chancellor for educational services and economic development at the chancellor's office, to serve as interim president at Mission College, saying it was a "thrill" to work with a college for which she had created and helped

implement policies.

She has a bachelors degree in communications disorders and a masters in clinical psychology. Both were earned from Cal State Long Beach.

She is finishing doctoral work at the University of Southern California.

Cepeda lives in Sacramento with her husband and youngest daughter.

The couple has two daughters ages 25 and 17.

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May God bless you!

Latino film festival debuts this week

By Theresa Salinas
el Don Editor in Chief

In an unprecedented move to capture the attention of Latino moviegoers in Orange County, the Spanish-language portion of the Fourth Annual Newport Beach International Film Festival premieres in downtown Santa Ana this month.

More than 17 films from throughout Latin America, will debut during the Festival del Cine Latino, held March 26 to April 1 at Teatro Fiesta on Fourth Street.

The goal of the festival is to unite screen gems of numerous Spanish-speaking countries into one venue. Spain, Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela share their treasures, but the majority come from Mexico.

The high number of

Mexican films debuting at the festival combined with local demographics, make downtown the optimum venue.

"Santa Ana has a heavy Mexican population," said Robert Cano, director of the Festival del Cine Latino. "We wanted to bring the entertainment out to where people would watch it. What greater place than downtown to do this?"

All films will be shown in Spanish with English subtitles and have ratings equivalent to PG-13 or R.

La Sonambula / The Sleepwalker (Argentina) debuts on March 28, at Teatro Fiesta. Filmed in black and white, it is set in futuristic Argentina, where government authorities uncover a psychic weapon aimed at "silencing" a new breed of anarchists. Side

effects such as severe memory and identity loss ravage Argentina, as survivor groups emerge and attempt to regain control of the country.

The adventures and deceptions of teenage sex are explored in *La Primera Noche / My First Night* (Mexico), which premieres March 26, also at Teatro Fiesta. The plot centers on a group of 15 to 18-year-olds intent on discovering the magic and mystery behind the famed "first time."

Another film, *Divine: El Evangelio De Las Maravillas* (Mexico) makes its U.S. premier March 27 at the Edwards South Coast Village Theatre. Loosely based on a religious sect from the 70s, it is set in a deserted Mexican town bitten by the millennium bug.

Convinced that the end of the world is connected with the end of the century, the town becomes a haven for prostitutes, drug dealers and social outcasts wishing to change their ways. Presiding over the town is Queen Tomasa, a Nintendo-obsessed teen who leads her followers through a series of strange rituals adapted from Hollywood golden age biblical flicks.

A gala reception will be held for the premier, March 27 at 4 p.m. at the South Coast Village Theatre.

Teatro Festival is located in Santa Ana at 305 E. Fourth Street. Admission is \$5.50 and ample parking is located directly behind the theater. For tickets, please call (888) EMT-TIXS. For additional information or complete movie listings, call (949) 851-6555.



Foreign films like *Open Your Eyes*, are playing at the Fourth Annual Newport Beach International Film Festival which runs from March 26 through April 1.

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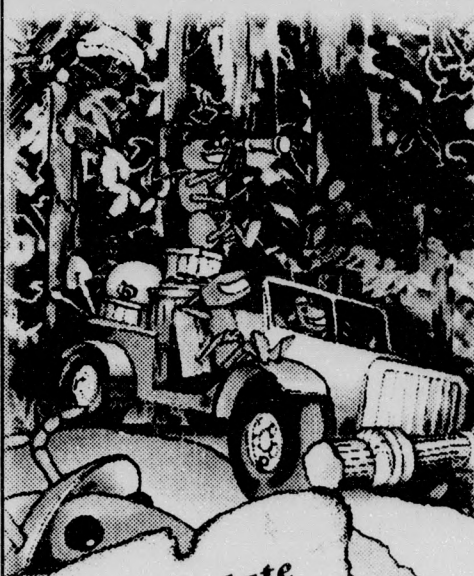
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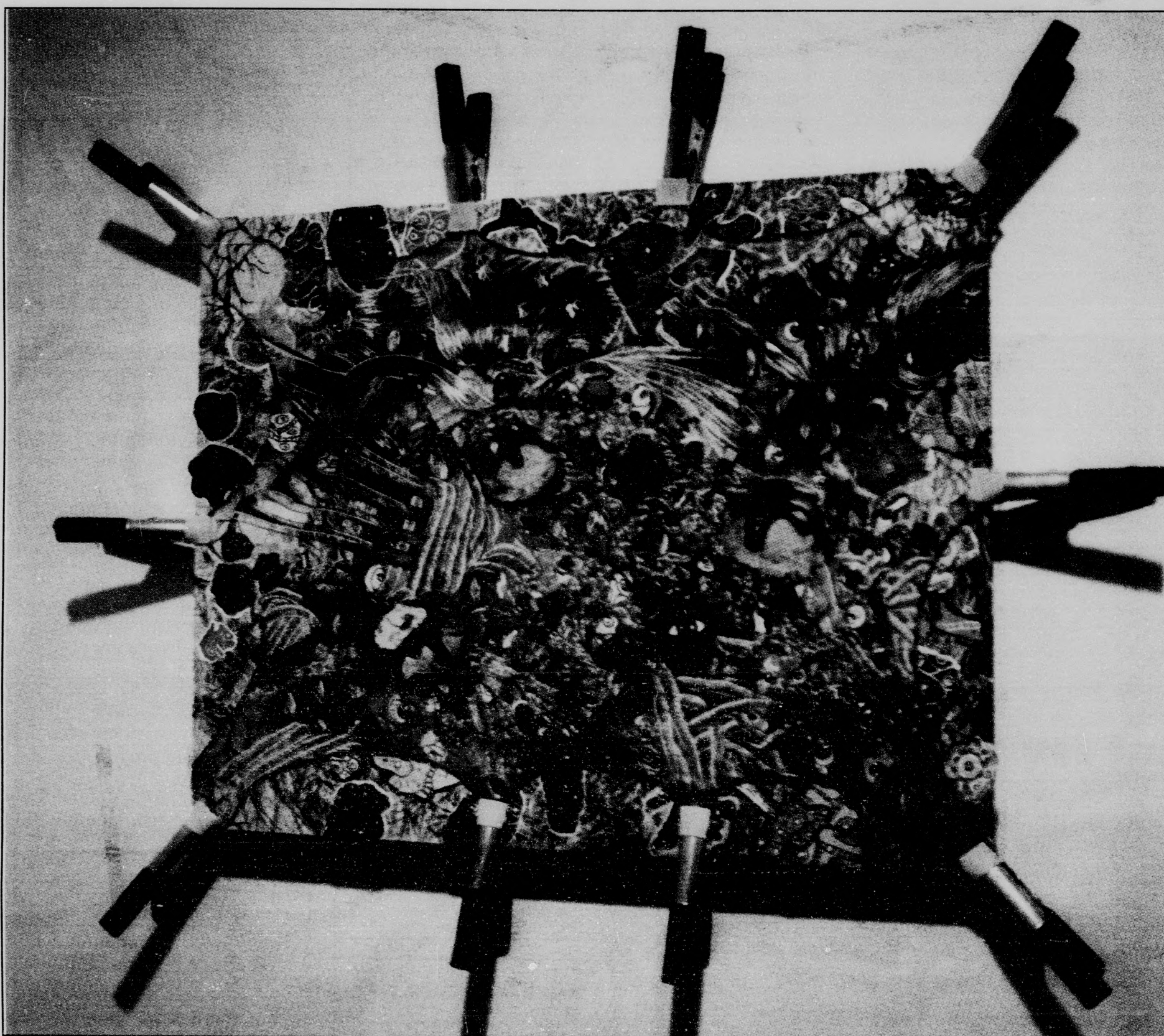
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"It Loves to Happen/Hide" by Barbara Strasen is a colorful collage with clamps attached all around the art work. The collection runs through April 7.

Ismael Arellano / el Don

Still 'In Progress'

By J.P. Chabot
el Don Staff Writer

"In Progress II," the second collection of works by Santa Ana College students Sue Ann Robinson and Barbara Strasen, features a compelling blend of mixed-media artwork and creative montages.

Entering the gallery, a quick succession of five of Strasen's cheesecloth photograph collections line the wall, each a distorted window into the subconscious mind.

"Six-Sided Table," is an irregularly shaped white canvas table covered in a montage of repeated red images and contour drawings - most of them food related. The prominent figures in the piece are the most confusing: a kneeling figure to the left of the "table," and a screaming baby that sits in a wash basin on the right side.

Art Review

One of her vivid and visually confusing works in the exhibit is "It Loves to Happen/Hide." A multi-colored canvas with eyes and other undefined shapes painted on it is hidden under a stretched translucent plastic "hide," with holes over the eyes. It evokes different feelings, because, although it is bright and expressive, it is also vague and therefore open to many interpretations.

Her massive target-looking collage "Life Force and its Consequence" is a fascinatingly large circle of cutout images pinned to the wall by large sewing

needles. The outer ring reveals snippets of everyday, household items and food. The next ring is made up of animals and people while the next is composed of bones, pottery and pictures of cells.

The inner core to the piece is made of abstract material. It's a very striking piece that allows the viewer to ponder its meaning while enjoying its beauty.

Moving into Robinson's half of the collection, "Bookworks," is composed of copies of used books and pamphlets subjected to artistic reinterpretation. In one of her works, for example, "The Divine Comedy" a wooden block labeled "Dante's Divine Comedy" opens up, exposing a brightly-colored paper accordion, as if to suggest the magic of the words found within the book. In "Art/Life" some pages are labeled with various slips of paper found in fortune cookies.

Robinson's works rarely deviate from the accordion-style format, and all but one of them are connected in some way with books.

There are a few pattern-breakers however, such as "Untitled," a haunting collection of books with silver sand covering their pages. It is a disturbing reminder of how all knowledge is eventually lost.

The collection is on display in SAC's Art Gallery until April 7. The gallery is open from Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and is also open Tuesday and Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tours may be arranged by calling the Art Gallery Office at (714) 564-5615.



Ismael Arellano / el Don

Barbara Strasen's piece "Connections" is a montage of silhouette figures of animals and humans that covers the entire wall.



By Dawnielle Peck
el Don Feature Editor

Would you allow a film crew to follow and record every detail of your life for 24 hours a day, seven days a week if it meant you would become an instant celebrity?

That is the question addressed in *EDtv*, a new Ron Howard movie starring Matthew McConaughey as Ed Pekurny, a man who must deal with the complicated issues of overnight fame when he agrees to be on television, live and unedited, around the clock.

The film essentially borrows major themes from last year's *The Truman Show* and from the MTV's show *The Real World*.

It's easy to relate to the situation -- along comes an offer from a cable station which would make Ed a star and would give him the money he could never make at his video store clerk job. The only catch is that he must agree to have his life (including his family and friend's lives) taped by a film crew.

While most of Ed's family is weary of him accepting the offer, his envious older brother, Ray (Woody Harrelson), views the situation as a great opportunity for his own motives. Though Ed is content with his life,

he gives in to the pressure of his brother and accepts the cable show's offer.

Although the picture is ultimately Ed's story, his family and friends are soon pulled into the movie as well, sharing in his 15 minutes of fame and becoming twisted into what the network needs for ratings in a way that is many times funny, but also tragic. Ed enjoys the fruits of celebrity life, but he soon must deal with the effect it has on the ones he loves. From the media's attention, Ed's family is pictured in an unflattering life -- his sister is seen as a drunk, his mother as a slut, his stepfather as an invalid and his real father as a deadbeat.

The terrific ensemble cast is the real backbone of the picture.

McConaughey's easygoing, Texas charm made his naive character believable and extremely likable. The emotion and contention between Harrelson and McConaughey plays like real family life -- tender at times, but filled with conflict only, millions tune in to watch and critique their every move.

Jenna Elfman leaves behind her hyper hippie character from ABC-TV's *Dharma & Greg* in her turn as Shari, Ray's long suffering girlfriend. After she catches Ray cheating on her (live on *EDtv* of course), she confronts her feelings for Ed. Although Shari and Ed are well suited for each other, the

public doesn't agree. Troubled by feelings of insecurity (a *USA Today* polls tells her that 71 percent think she's not good enough for him) lets the viewers chip away at her self-esteem and her relationship.

Martin Landau steals nearly every scene he's in as Ed's ailing stepfather, Al. Beyond the great one-liners he delivers (after inhaling into his oxygen mask, he tells Ed, "I'd call for your mother, but I'd die."), Landau contributes to much of the film's pathos.

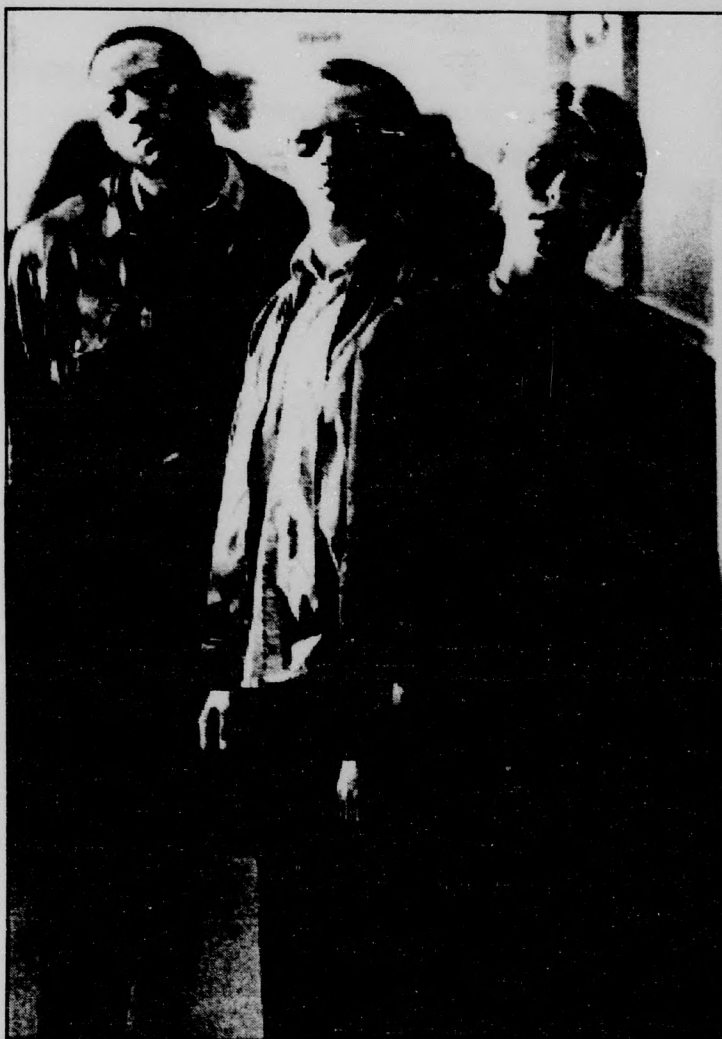
In a refreshing turn, Ellen DeGeneres plays Cynthia, the network executive whose brainchild *EDtv* is.

Through out the course of the movie, Cynthia realizes that *EDtv* is destroying an innocent man's life and begins to doubt the Frankenstein that she has created.

EDtv is an entertaining satire that reveals the media obsession that plagues our world and shows how easy it is for the public to become engrossed in one man's pain and happiness. With mixed parts of humor, wit and emotion, the movie is a treat.

EDtv shows how an average Joe can become famous overnight -- but it comes a price

Julie, (Claire Danes) Pete, (Giovanni Ribisi) and Linc (Omar Epps) are a trio of delinquents who work undercover for the cops to avoid jail time for their past crimes.



Meet the...

Mod Squad

By Alesa Kerr
el Don Views Editor

Cool clothes. Groovy music. Kick-ass attitudes. Too bad *The Mod Squad* just couldn't get down with its bad self.

Based on the popular 70s TV show of the same name, the movie played much like an old action/drama TV episode, especially with the hip-hop and *Shaft*-esque music that constantly played in the background.

Claire Danes, Giovanni Ribisi and Omar Epps portray Julie, Pete and Linc respectively. Julie is a former drug addict who's lived her life on the streets and has an assault on her police record. Pete is the boy that grew up with a silver spoon in his mouth but ended up a robber. Linc is an arsonist from the hood.

In order to avoid doing time, the trio is recruited by police Captain Adam Greer (Dennis Farina) to work undercover.

Everything changes for the group when drugs from the police evidence locker are stolen. The kids become suspects and it's up to the young sleuths to battle crooked cops and solve this case on their own.

For their parts, Danes, Ribisi and Epps did a fine acting job. Ribisi, the much needed comic element of the film, still had a tad too much of his mentally challenged character in him from *The Other Sister* (he does that barking like a dog thing again.) Danes really broke free from her mostly innocent good-girl roles with as the hard-edged, strong Julie. Epps gives a Samuel L. Jackson in-the-making performance with his stoic and incredibly cool Linc.

The movie had action, but was rather disjointed. More background information was needed in the beginning so we could feel for the characters instead of question who they are and how they all came together. It came off much like *L.A. Confidential* but slicked-up for a younger, hipper generation.

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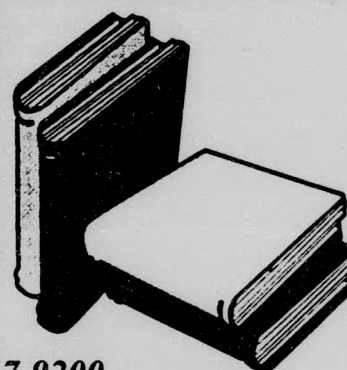
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Our
VIEWSEverybody's
free... to
offer advice

The hot new single rising the music charts is Baz Luhrmann's *Everybody's Free (to Wear Sunscreen)* - a seven minute spoken word piece based on a column that Mary Schmich wrote for the Chicago Tribune. The song is filled with practical advice that ranges from the trivial such as "floss" to the more insightful like, "Don't waste your time on jealousy. Sometimes you're ahead, sometimes you're behind. The race is long and, in the end, it's only with yourself."

In the tradition of this song, we'd like to offer some advice tailored to the students here on campus.

-Say thank you at the end of a semester to teachers who were influential to you.

-Think long and hard about taking a class before 10 a.m. Think even harder about ones that start after 5 p.m.

-Demand the things that are important to you. It is *your* education.

-Use a bathroom from every building at least once. Remember though, the ones in the Cesar Chavez building are the nicest.

-Keep ALL your receipts.

-Be patient. There will be lines at registration. The vending machines will take your money. These things happen.

-Eat at the cafeteria, but leave before it hardens you.

-Search for a parking space near the front, but more often than not, accept defeat and park near the back. The walk will do you good.

-Don't look for normal magazines in the library -- there are none.

-You're never too old to go back to school. Don't let other people make you feel old. But don't discredit youth.

-Aim to leave here in two years. Definitely leave by six.

-Thank whomever supports you. If you support yourself, give yourself a pat on the back.

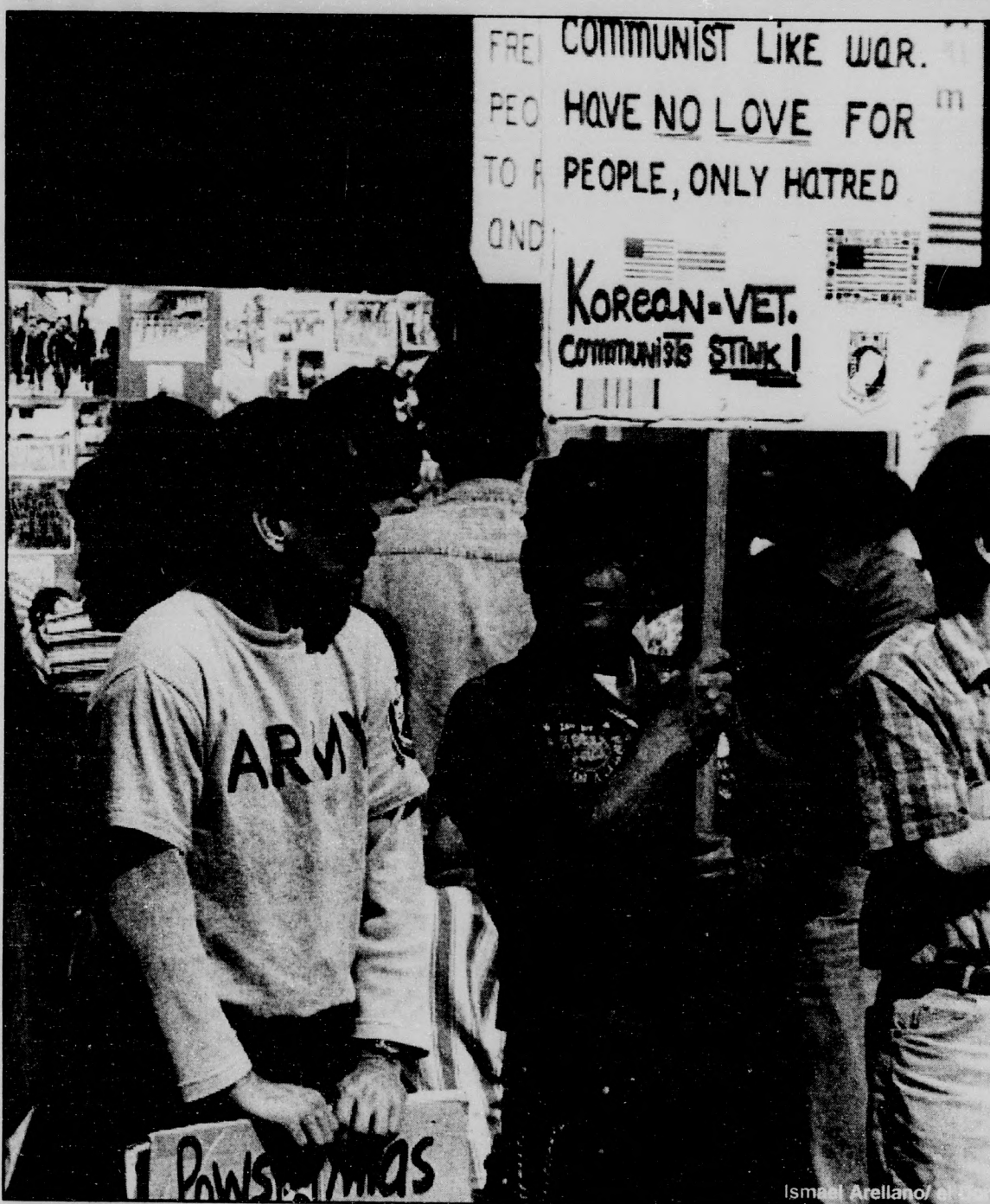
-Always carry your student ID.

-Take a chance and talk to someone new in your class.

-Buy a stash of scantrons at the beginning of the year. Give an extra to a classmate that needs one.

Mailbox Policy

The el Don encourages expression of all views. Letters should be brief and to the point. All letters should include student ID number and may be edited for length and clarity. Letters to el Don may be delivered to room C-201, or mailed to SAC el Don, Mailbox, 17th at Bristol streets, Santa Ana, CA 92706. Include a phone number where you may be reached. Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the editorial board and do not necessarily reflect the views of SAC. Opinions with a byline are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of el Don or Santa Ana College. El Don reserves the right to refuse advertising and does not necessarily subscribe to the views of the advertisers. For el Don advertising rates and information, contact Debi Carr at (714)564-5617. FAX 564-0821

Mail
BAGFirst Ammendment
should have limits

The following is a response to the staff editorial titled "Breaking Down the Chain" that dealt with Westminster video store owner Trung Van Tran's rights to freedom of speech in the February 22 issue of el Don.

Dear Editor:

The issue, in immediate terms, is whether Trung Van Tran has the right to display, provocatively and dangerously, his icons of communism. The author of the article, which I am addressing, spouts the claim that any red white and blue-blooded American would fight for the upholding of the First Amendment regardless of the issue.

But what if I proposed that the First Amendment has gone too far? True, the amendment is undisputed law. But maintenance of national security founds many of this country's laws as well. What if, as conflict and legal First Amendment protest against Tran increased, the communist party is incited to come to his aid and war broke out in Westminster? (I know, the idea is absurd.) In this specific case, the protection of free speech would be at odds with national security.

However, just as absurd is the conceptual argument for protecting any type of free speech. In a notably simplified form, the argument goes as such: if we don't protect Tran's right to incite loathing in his fellow man, or the neo-Nazi's right to march through the Jewish community of Skokie, Ill., where will the line be drawn? One by one our rights will be sucked away. Before we know it, we'll be making George Orwell a prophet. But really - I think it would be safe to say, living in a representative democracy that this will never

happen.

So, is it outlandish to propose that lines could be drawn on free speech, under specific, outlined circumstances? Out lawmakers don't think so. If I wrote here that I wanted to kill the president (I don't really - for you Secret Service Agents out there loyally reading your el Don), I would be arrested - or whatever they do to such flagrant abusers of free speech. Sure, the amendment is plain and clear - we must allow freedom of speech. But no matter how warped? The Bill of Rights was a *reaction* to a specific, degraded situation, to ensure that the atrocities occurring under British rule would not surface in the new nation. But could there be a point where we are no longer preventing atrocities, but rather are opening a door for the values of this country (I will not presume to tell you what these are or should be) to be trampled upon by self-serving individuals?

I am not making any definitive statements here. In this particular situation in Westminster, I cannot say if a line must be drawn - probably not. But we cannot write off events such as these with the popular touting of the First Amendment.

When confronted with these episodes we must step back and consider what we value as Americans. Is it simply free speech for its own sake, or is there anything to which we hold fast? If there is nothing for which we will stand, or if we allow free speech in the extremes to trod upon the few solids we do have, then I am not sure our nation is any better off than one under Big Brother.

-Peter C. Debelak
Santa Ana College student



the DIAMOND is her best friend Fastpitch Head Coach Kim Nutter is a pro-athlete and a role model

By Theresa M. Hudzinski
el Don Staff Writer

If you have wondered if coaches at Santa Ana College do interesting things in the off-season, ask Fastpitch coach Kim Nutter. She spent last summer playing first base and outfield for the Tampa Bay FireStix.

While many are aware of women's professional basketball leagues such as the American Basketball League (now defunct) and the Women's National Basketball Association, most have not heard of the Women's Professional Softball League (formally known as Women's Professional Fastpitch).

Now entering its third year, the WPSL took eight years of research and planning before becoming a reality. As with women's pro basketball, many have tried but not succeeded in bringing fastpitch to the professional level. 1997 marked the inaugural year for the WPSL, with AT&T Wireless Services signing on as a corporate sponsor.

After taking four seasons off from playing, Nutter decided it was time to return to the diamond.

"I wanted to go back and play. I wanted to experience (fastpitch) on all levels from the competition, marketing, to public relations," she said.

Nutter said that the lessons that she learned not only helped her as a player, but as a coach as well.

"Being on the opposite end, I got a different look at what things are important," she said.

Softball has been a part of her life since she was 10 years old. And while she played volleyball and soccer, fastpitch is what she liked best.

At Marina High School, Nutter was

named CIF Player of the Year and went on to earn the title of Community College Player of the Year at Golden West College.

Once at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, she earned her bachelor's degree in physical education and was named a first team Division I All-American. She later received her master's in education from Cal State Dominguez Hills.

Before Nutter began as head coach at SAC eight years ago, her resume consisted of coaching at Long Beach City College, Rio Hondo College, and East Los Angeles High School.

Nutter has attended nine Olympic festivals, eight for softball and one for handball. She also played for the California Commotions and the California A's.

Her coaching style is simple.

"I believe in responsibility and dedication. Working hard will get you what you want," Nutter said.

Overall her professional experience was enlightening.

"There are definitely changes that need to be made in marketing and public relations [in the WPSL]. There were two teams in Florida and not only do they compete with each other [on the field], they have to compete with Disney World and Sea World [for guests]. There's too much going on. But there is potential out there," she said.

As for the future of her players, "My sophomores this season had a chance not only to see my games on television, but they actually came to Tampa to see me play. It was a good way for them to see that there are opportunities out there," Nutter said.

This summer, she plans on teaching summer school and taking a vacation.

THE DON REPORT



The Facts

Lady Dons b-ball season comes to end in Ventura

The Santa Ana College women's basketball season was completed on March 6 with a 70-55 defeat at the hands of Ventura College in the regional finals.

This season was the most successful in the history of the program at SAC. The Lady Dons finished with a 23-10 record, including two wins in the playoffs before losing to Ventura, who finished second in the state.

Rochelle Anthony and Stephanie Patten finished first and second in scoring in the Orange Empire Conference. Anthony, a sophomore also broke the Dons career scoring record this season by averaging over 20 points a game.

Patten will be expected to lead the team next season with Anthony's departure. She will be joined by fellow returnees Mary Pedro, Casey Remmers, and Lisa Arcangel.

-Randy Scott



The Facts

Dons pigskin players sign on at Universities

Several members of the Santa Ana College football team have signed letters of intent to play at four-year schools in recent weeks.

Quarterback Archie Lappin has committed to Western New Mexico University. Lappin was a first team selection to the All-Mission Conference offensive team in 1997 and holds the SAC record for season completion percentage with a .617 average.

Wide receiver Rob Caston is on his way to the University of New Mexico. Caston was Lappin's leading target the last two seasons and is expected to play the same role at his new school.

Offensive tackle Tait Afualo will play at Eastern Kentucky while defensive end/linebacker Rick Hewitson has signed with Olivet Nazarene College in Illinois. Hewitson had five quarterback sacks last season.

-Randy Scott



The Facts

Santiago Canyon College names first head coach

Santiago Canyon College took another step toward establishing an athletic program by hiring their first team coach.

Ed Cantu was named the coach of both the mens and womens cross country teams, which will compete for the first time in the fall of 1999.

Cantu served as a coach and teacher at Orange High school for eight years. At OHS he was involved in both both cross country and track. He also coached at Villa Park High school for two years.

This is the first sport SCC will participate in, with plans for soccer and other teams to be added in coming semesters.

Formerly known as the Orange Campus, SCC was split from Santa Ana College into a separate school in 1997. The Hawks will compete in the Orange Empire conference, along with SAC, Fullerton, Irvine Valley and four other area colleges.

-Randy Scott



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Tigers take the fifth, beat Dons 9-2 at home

BASEBALL: A great pitching performance by Michael Natale helps the Dons split two against Riverside

By Randy Scott
el Don Sports Editor

The Santa Ana College baseball team has been on a slide to start Orange Empire Conference play.

After six games in the conference, the Dons were 2-4 and in fifth place. Last week the Dons had a chance to make up ground when they faced Riverside City College in an away and home series.

Last Tuesday SAC visited the Tigers and defeated them 6-2. The Dons were led by the superb pitching of Michael Natale. The sophomore, from La Serna High School, tossed a complete game, scattering 4 hits en route to his third victory of the season.

Santa Ana never trailed in the game, scoring a run in the first before RCC tied it in the bottom of the inning. The Dons scored two more in the second and never looked back after that.

This set up the rematch on Thursday in Santa Ana, with SAC looking for the sweep and the Tigers looking for a split.

Riverside opened the scoring in the second inning. A sharp liner hit up the middle struck Dons starter Gabriel Salazar in the upper body. The hit shook the freshman up and the Tigers capitalized on it by getting their runner home on a sacrifice fly. The visitors added another run in the third.

Santa Ana's offense was kept off guard all afternoon by RCC's starter Rick Sander. The freshman lefthander balanced his pitches well and kept himself out of trouble by staying in and around the strike zone with most of his pitches.

He was rewarded for his performance in the fifth when Riverside broke the game open.

The inning started with Salazar giving up a triple to the first man he faced. He was retired when Dons shortstop Josh Shaffer threw a bullet to the plate getting the first out. Salazar walked the next man he saw, then got the Tiger batter to fly out.

The Dons luck ran out when Riverside got a two run double followed by a two run homer to open up a 6-0 lead. The Tigers added two more in the sixth before the Dons finally got on the board.

Designated hitter Dustin Wagoner and catcher Christian Popoff each knocked in a run in the bottom of the sixth, but that was as close as the Dons would get as Riverside went on to a 9-2 victory.


Santa Ana's record is now 3-5 in the OEC, in fifth place and a game behind RCC. With only half of the conference schedule behind them, the Dons have plenty of time to make up ground and challenge for their seventh OEC title this decade.


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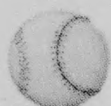
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Outfield

Rachelle Ngayan
Outfield

Monique Rodriguez
Utility

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Third Base

Sara Vaughn
Pitcher

Erica Pilkington
Pitcher/First

Jennifer Weiss
Outfield

Marsha Zazuetta
Utility

Kim Nutter
Head Coach

FASTPITCH 1999: Can the Lady Dons overcome a slow start and make the playoffs?

By Michael Ziobrowski
el Don Copy Editor

Injuries and a lack of mental toughness have put the Santa Ana College fastpitch team at an 8-13-2 record this season.

With standouts like sophomore captain Jennifer Weiss, freshmen Erica Hammontree, Erica Pilkington and Raylene Salcido, and 28-year-softball-veteran Head Coach Kim Nutter leading the way, the Lady Dons could be on their way to a conference title.

Pilkington was named pitcher of the year last season and made the all-tournament team at this year's Golden West College invitational. Starting catcher Megan Hamrock has already signed a letter of intent with New Mexico Highlands University, a Division II school.

The Lady Dons practice between two and three hours a day, lifting, jogging, taking ground and fly balls and working on team and individual defense.

"Staying focused and learning to know each other better on the field were pre-season goals," said Nutter. "We're learning as we go." At this point in the season, base running and the offensive game are high on the priority list.

Visualization is incorporated in Santa Ana's daily practice, preparing for the tough competition in this season's Orange Empire Conference.

Cypress won last year's conference title, putting them in a prime position for a repeat.

"Our toughest competition this season is Saddleback, Riverside and Cypress," said Nutter. "The conference is real tight and very strong from top to bottom this season."

